

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A wheel cover assembly, comprising:

a wheel clad assembly, comprising:

a body member having an outer surface and an inner surface opposed across the body member from the outer surface; and
at least one elongated tubularly-shaped extension comprising a first material and having an inner surface, a proximal portion connected to the body member, a distal portion extending in a direction away from the inner surface of the body member, and at least one irregularity spaced along a length of the distal portion of the at least one extension;
and

at least one tubularly-shaped insulating sleeve comprising a second material different from the first material and having an outer surface that abuts the inner surface of the at least one extension and includes an edge portion that closely receives the irregularity of the distal portion of the at least one extension therein, thereby preventing removal of the at least one sleeve from within the at least one extension in an axial direction;

wherein the edge portion is adapted to engage a vehicle wheel, thereby assembling the wheel cover assembly with the vehicle wheel, the at least one extension is adapted to be completely concealed when the wheel cover assembly is assembled with the vehicle wheel, and wherein the sleeve is adapted to thermally insulate the wheel clad assembly from the vehicle wheel.

2. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one sleeve comprises stainless steel.

3. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 2, wherein the at least one irregularity includes a circumferentially extending rib.

4. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 3, wherein the distal portion of the at least one extension is divided into a plurality of longitudinally extending flexibly resilient fingers.

5. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 4, wherein the at least one sleeve includes a plurality of longitudinally extending flexibly resilient fingers that are aligned with the fingers of the distal portion of the at least one extension.

6. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 5, wherein the at least one extension includes at least one tab integrally formed and extending inwardly from the inner surface of the at least one extension, and wherein the at least one insulating sleeve includes at least one aperture closely receiving the tab of the at least one extension therein, thereby preventing rotational movement of the at least one sleeve with respect to the at least one extension.

7. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 6, wherein the at least one sleeve includes an end wall.

8. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 7, wherein the at least one extension member includes a plurality of extension members spaced circumferentially about the body member, and wherein the at least one sleeve includes a plurality of sleeve received within the plurality of extension members.

9. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the edge portion of the at least one sleeve is adapted to releasably engage the wheel.

10. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 9, wherein the edge portion of the at least one sleeve is adapted to snappably engage the wheel.

11. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 9, wherein the edge portion of the at least one sleeve is adapted to snappably engage a lug nut of the wheel.

12. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one extension is substantially cylindrically shaped.

13. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one irregularity includes a circumferentially extending rib.

14. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the distal portion of the at least one extension is divided into a plurality of longitudinally extending flexibly resilient fingers.

15. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 14, wherein the at least one sleeve includes a plurality of longitudinally extending flexibly resilient fingers that are aligned with the fingers of the distal portion of the at least one extension.

16. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one extension includes at least one tab integrally formed and extending inwardly from the inner surface of the at least one extension, and wherein the at least one insulating sleeve includes at least one aperture closely receiving the tab of the at least one extension therein, thereby preventing rotational movement of the at least one sleeve with respect to the at least one extension.

17. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one sleeve includes an end wall.

18. (Original) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one extension member includes a plurality of extension members spaced circumferentially about the body member and wherein the at least one sleeve includes a plurality of sleeves received within the plurality of extension members.

19. (Previously amended) A sleeve connector for connecting a wheel cover assembly to a vehicle wheel, comprising:

a tubularly-shaped body portion;

an outer surface adapted to abut an inner surface of a tubularly-shaped extension of a wheel covering; and

a plurality of longitudinally extending flexibly resilient fingers, each finger including an edge portion adapted to closely receive an irregularity located along a length of the extension of the wheel covering, thereby preventing removal of at least a portion of the tubularly-shaped body portion from within the at least one extension in an axial direction;

wherein the edge portion is adapted to engage a vehicle wheel, thereby assembling the wheel covering with the vehicle wheel, and wherein at least a portion of the tubularly-shaped body portion is adapted to thermally insulate the wheel covering from the vehicle wheel.

20. (Original) The sleeve connector of claim 19, wherein the body portion and the fingers comprise stainless steel.

21. (Previously amended) The sleeve connector of claim 20, wherein the edge portion extends circumferentially about at least a portion of the tubularly-shaped body portion.

22. (Original) The sleeve cover assembly of claim 21, wherein the edge portion is adapted to releasably engage the vehicle wheel.

23. (Original) The sleeve cover assembly of claim 22, wherein the edge portion is adapted to snappably engage a lug nut of the vehicle wheel.

24. (Original) The sleeve cover assembly of claim 22, wherein the edge portion is adapted to snappably engage the vehicle wheel.

25. (Previously amended) The sleeve cover assembly of claim 24, further including:
at least one aperture adapted to closely receive a tab extending inwardly from the extension of the wheel covering, thereby preventing rotational movement of at least a portion of the tubularly-shaped body portion with respect to the extension.

26. (Original) The sleeve cover assembly of claim 25, further including:
an end wall.

27. (Original) The sleeve connector of claim 19, wherein the body portion is substantially cylindrically shaped.

28. (Previously amended) The sleeve connector of claim 19, wherein the edge portion extends circumferentially about at least a portion of the tubularly-shaped body portion.

29. (Original) The sleeve cover assembly of claim 28, wherein the edge portion is adapted to releasably engage the vehicle wheel.

30. (Original) The sleeve cover assembly of claim 29, wherein the edge portion is adapted to snappably engage the vehicle wheel.

31. (Original) The sleeve cover assembly of claim 29, wherein the edge portion is adapted to snappably engage a lug nut of the vehicle wheel.

32. (Previously amended) The sleeve cover assembly of claim 19, further including:
at least one aperture adapted to closely receive a tab extending inwardly from the extension of the wheel covering, thereby preventing rotational movement of at least a portion of the tubularly-shaped body portion with respect to the extension.
33. (Previously amended) The sleeve cover assembly of claim 19, wherein the tubularly-shaped body portion includes an end wall.